

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims of this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A solid image capturing apparatus comprising:
an image capturing device;
said image capturing device includes means for receiving an optical image;
means responsive to said optical image for conducting photoelectric conversion of said optical image to produce an image output signal;
means for generating characteristic data of said image capturing device to produce a characteristic data signal;
an output terminal;
means for outputting an output signal from output terminal; and
said means for outputting including means for outputting said output signal including both said image output signal and said characteristic data signal,
wherein said image capturing device includes an image field;
said image field includes an effective image field and an invalid image field;
said invalid image field includes characteristic data of said solid image capturing device;
said solid image capturing device includes an optical mask covering said invalid image field;
and
said optical mask includes a memory field which optically stores said characteristic data.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): A solid image capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 2~~1~~, wherein said invalid image field is located outside said effective image field.

a determining means for determining said characteristic data from said output signal.

Claim 8 (original): A solid image capturing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

said lens unit containing said means for generating characteristic data;

a main body of said image capturing apparatus; and

said lens unit is adapted for interchangeable mounting on said main body, whereby, whenever a lens is changed, characteristic data associated with said new lens is automatically available to said solid image capturing apparatus.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An image capturing apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:

a main body of the image capturing apparatus;

a lens unit;

means for permitting interchangeable mounting of said lens unit on said main body; and

said lens unit including therein said image capturing device.

Claim 10 (original): An image capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

a processing circuit for processing said output signal; and

a determining means for determining data that is characteristic to the solid image capturing device and processed by the processing circuit.

Claim 11 (original): An image capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said main body includes:

a processing circuit for processing said output signal; and

a determining means for determining data that is characteristic to said solid image capturing device and processed by the processing circuit.

Claim 12 (original): An image capturing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:
said output signal includes said characteristic data and said image output signal; and
said determining means time separating said characteristic data from said image output
signal, whereby a single output signal is enabled to contain both said characteristic data and said
image output signal without interference therebetween.

Claim 13 (original): An image capturing device according to claim 12, wherein said
characteristic data is contained in a field outside of a field that generates said image output signal.